

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Science and Technology Advisory Panel

NFAC 46/5-80

80-754/8

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

D/OPA- 80-7.3.

6 Oct 80

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Director, Office of Political Analysis
 Director, National Foreign Assessment Center

FROM:
 Chairman, Science and Technology Advisory Panel

 Science and Technology Advisory Panel

SUBJECT: SAFE

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1. Action Requested: That you support the recommendation made in paragraph 3.

2. Background:

On 17 September 1980, we met with the Office of Political Analysis to discuss plans for the participation of OPA's Cuban Analytic Center on the SAFE development project. In particular, we concentrated on the need for the proper physical resources required by the Cuban Center for its analysts to adequately test and use the PILOT SAFE system. This memorandum contains our recommendation for the priority to be given to these resource needs.

OPA will be one of the major users of SAFE after it has been developed. Therefore, its Cuban Center has been chosen to be one of three NFAC branches to participate in PILOT SAFE. The Center is to be fully outfitted with SAFE terminals and printers in order to provide feedback to the SAFE development team and user analysts. The necessity for such feedback was stressed in a STAP memorandum to the DCI, dated 10 April 1980, transmitting a report entitled, "Options for SAFE", STIC 80-002, April 1980. Our report emphasized the importance of collecting data on analyst usage, and on evolving changes in analyst usage in an environment that is as operational-like as possible. This should be true of the computer system, the intelligence data, the tasking, and the physical environment, including both the terminal features and the auxiliary resources, such as furniture, available to the analyst.

SUBJECT: SAFE

We feel that it is essential that the analyst be provided with real operational experiences in using the pilot system. To accomplish this, the analyst's work space should be generous and flexible, and include the physical attributes to be provided in the final SAFE system. This means, in the case of OPA, there is a requirement for the use of systems furniture. The lack of office space in OPA precludes the use of alternative furniture such as tab tables on which to place terminals and printers.

3. Recommendation: We therefore recommend that support for the SAFE test station for OPA be accorded a very high priority; including terminal capabilities, space and ancillary supporting equipment and furniture. We specifically recommend that the Cuban Center be provided with systems furniture. It is our understanding that OPA's foresight has made adequate allowance for the cost of such furniture for the Center. Any delays or degradation in support will cause even greater delays and degradation in the effective utilization of the SAFE system and its IOC, together with corresponding increases in the concomitant costs.

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